ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method are described for reducing or preventing tangling of a fishing line that passes through one or more guides on a fishing rod. The apparatus includes a housing and a clamp operative to secure the housing to the fishing rod. A bore extends through the housing, and a slot is provided which is in communication with the bore and which is sized to receive the fishing line. A gate rigidly disposed relative to the housing impedes free passage of the fishing line from the bore and into the slot. The method includes placing the fishing line under tension in a tensioner that is connected to a fishing rod at a point along the length of the fishing rod that is distal to, yet proximate to, a reel; and reeling in the fishing line onto the reel while maintaining tension distal to the reel.